

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MAKAYLA POLAK DESIGN EDITOR

Dispensary OPENS



loud tree pot weed
marijuana
grass dope gas

Maryville adds locally-grown medicinal cannabis center

JAKE PRATER
News Reporter | @JakobLPrater

Maryville received another new business, the first of its kind, earlier this month. Nearly three years after Amendment 2 was passed — an amendment legalizing of marijuana for medicinal purposes in Missouri — Maryville will see its effect firsthand.

A medical marijuana dispensary company known as Sunrise has opened a new dispensary in downtown Maryville. Sunrise, which sells cannabis grown in Missouri, has locations in Kansas City, St. Louis, Macon, Clinton, and now, Maryville. The dispensary in Maryville opened Feb. 4.

“Missouri was a competitive licensing state,” said Sean Carriger, president of Sunrise’s parent company Agri-Genesis. “We’re very excited to be participating in

the economy in Maryville. It seems like a great place to be.”

Maryville was selected as a potential location because of its distance from other dispensaries and vendors. Sunrise offers a wide range of cannabis products for sale. At the dispensary, pre-rolled joints, vaporizations, gas, wax, edibles and even topical lotions are sold.

Carriger said the dispensary was not set up to have a location in Maryville, and Sunrise originally sought a medical marijuana license in Kirksville, Missouri. After finding there was a large area without any medical marijuana dispensaries and there were already four dispensaries in Kirksville, it decided to request the license to be transferred to Maryville.

The cannabis for Sunrise is grown in Macon County by Richard Gunnels, a farmer whose family has planted crops for over a century.

“It’s not your cousin’s brick weed that he got from a dealer down the street,”

-SEAN CARRIGER

SEE DISPENSARY | A4

Student charged for privacy invasion

A student has been charged with invasion of privacy after two women reported being recorded in the female bathroom on the third floor of Millikan Hall.

Logan D. Fainter, 19, a Millikan resident, was arrested by University Police after an investigation into the reports.

In the first victim’s voluntary, written report of a Jan. 27 incident, she said that she saw a phone camera pointed at her under the shower stall while she was nude, according to a probable cause statement from the University Police Department.

A second victim reported a similar incident in a voluntary, written report of an event that occurred Feb. 5, saying a white male pointed a newer-version iPhone in a black case at her over the shower stall while she was nude, according to the probable cause statement.

Both victims verified they did not give anyone consent to photograph, film, videotape, produce or otherwise create an image of them in the shower.

University Police notified students in an email Feb. 7 about the reports and asked for anyone with information on the incidents to contact UPD.

Fainter gave written consent to a search of his phone without a warrant at 12:59 p.m. Feb. 10. The first victim identified her black Under Armour flip-flops in an image found in the search. The date and time stamp of the image aligned with the original statement made by the first victim, and the sandals were placed into evidence, according to the probable cause statement from UPD.

The statement also said Fainter admitted Feb. 13 to creating an image or a video of an unknown person without their consent at 9:09 p.m. Jan. 27 in the female bathroom on the third floor of Millikan Hall. He also admitted to doing the same to another person at 11:45 p.m. Feb. 5.

There is a scheduling hearing 9 a.m. March 1 for the charges brought against him.

IN NEWS

University officials make first of four presentations before voting on next year’s designated fees.

A2 Student Senate review fees

IN SPORTS

Northwest men handed back-to-back losses for first time since 2015, consecutive home defeats for first time since 2010-11.

A8 ‘Cats stung by Hornets



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SIDNEY LOWRY NEWS EDITOR

North Star Advocacy Center recently hired full-time victim advocate Wyatt Williams. Williams first started out as an intern in 2020, and found a passion for helping people in the Maryville community.



SIDNEY LOWRY NEWS EDITOR

North Star Advocacy Center recently hired part-time victim advocate Julia Day. Day previously worked for North Star before moving to St. Joseph, Missouri. Nearly a year later, she was brought back as a new on-call victim advocate.

Local advocacy center hires Alumni

SIDNEY LOWRY
News Editor | @sidney_lowry

North Star Advocacy Center welcomed two Northwest graduates as new victim advocates at the beginning of this month.

Wyatt Williams is originally from Maryville and has been brought on as a full-time victim advocate after earning a bachelor’s degree in human services with a minor in psychology from Northwest.

“I really liked Maryville as an adult, and I really wanted to stay here and, you know, work with the community,” Williams said.

Though he just started his new job, he is familiar with the advocacy center. Williams worked as an intern in 2020, helping out with clients and projects.

“I love Maryville, I love Northwest, I love the surrounding areas, and I feel like there’s an issue kind of underneath the surface here that is underserved in some kinds of ways. And to even volunteer for it was enough for me, but to be paid for it was a dream come true,” Williams said. “I love serving our individuals, our clients. It’s a great way to kind of empower people of all kinds to take their lives back and to have a better life. Nothing better.”

Julia Day is the second victim advocate hired as a new staff member for North Star. Similar to Williams, she is not new to the work

being done at the center.

Day started her time at North Star as an intern while obtaining her bachelor’s degree in human services with a minor in criminology and criminal justice. During her internship, she and victim advocate and volunteer coordinator Meghann Kosman lead a group of survivors in sharing their stories. Day said that was where she really fell in love with North Star.

Her passion for helping survivors didn’t show up out of nowhere; it started years before coming to Northwest and interning at North Star.

In high school, Day had the opportunity to talk to people who worked for a nonprofit organization that worked with victims of human trafficking. It shook her to the core, she said.

“Since high school, I just had a really burning passion of wanting to work with people who were either human trafficking victims or were survivors of sexual assault or domestic violence,” Day said. “And so, this is actually like one of the dream jobs that I have working here.”

After her internship, Day worked as a full-time advocate, volunteer coordinator, and worked with interns from Northwest. One of those interns was Williams, who now works side by side with her.

Day then ended up moving to St. Joseph, Missouri, with her husband, Matt, and had to leave her previous position due to the distance between her new home and the advocacy cen-

ter. Just over a year later, North Star reached out to offer her a new position.

“They created a position for me where I can work on-call as a part time staff member, so I can come in when they need another extra advocate,” Day said. “That has been, like, the most humbling thing for me because this is an organization that I really value and that I’ve gotten so much experience from and so, just the fact that they created this for me to work here.”

Kosman was happy to see Day back, she said, and excited to see Williams do more work outside of what he did as an intern.

“It’s cool to see him in the new role of an advocate because it is different from an intern,” Kosman said. “Granted, our interns are exposed to pretty much everything that the staff is exposed to, and we definitely put a lot of responsibility on our interns. But it is different coming back as a staff person and being the one responsible.”

Now working at North Star, both Day and Williams are excited to be working with the other staff members and more clients.

“Honestly, the more people we work with, the more people’s lives we improve,” Williams said. “At the end of the day, that’s what matters to me. And I’m really excited to work with more and more people, and I’m really excited to get them out of some pretty tough situations, as hard as it can be.”

Senate discusses University fees, Homecoming theme

KENNEDY KALVODA
News reporter | @KKKalvoda1

Student Affairs Vice President Matt Baker and Finance and Administration Vice President Stacy Carrick presented the first of four presentations over designated fees for the 2022 fiscal year at the Feb. 22 Student Senate meeting.

Textbook and technology fees were the primary point of Carrick and Baker’s presentation.

As stated in Missouri law, decisions regarding the raising or lowering of student fees are to be voted on by all of the students or student representatives in the form of student government. These meetings will inform the

senators on their decisions regarding student fees for the next academic and fiscal year.

“As we demonstrated tonight, the mix of how the University is paid for, how the education is paid for, has changed over the last 30 years. More and more is the responsibility of the student or their parents, and less and less is coming from the state,” Baker said.

He added that it’s important for students to have a say in what they believe they should invest in and to get students’ input on services the University provides.

According to the presentation, tuition and fees make up 70% of the University’s \$104 million budget, while the rest is provided by federal and state appropriations.

Northwest also gets the second-lowest amount of money from the state out of the 13 public universities in Missouri, despite being the number one public university in the state for return on state appropriated funds per degree completion. This is a form of outcomes-based funding, which is funding that allocates funds based on factors such as course completion, degree progression and efficiency, degree completion, workforce readiness, research and public service, and affordability, among others.

University Auxiliary Services also has a revenue of around \$24 million from meal plans, textbook fees, events, ID cards and supplies. This revenue is \$1 million less compared to the previous fiscal year, according to the presentation. The University’s freshmen enrollment is down, and Carrick said that makes it difficult to continue to keep tuition prices affordable for students.

Carrick was not entirely sure about the exact number, but said she believes designated fees for Northwest students are around \$142-\$143 per credit hour. These meetings will deter-



ADDALYNN BRADBURY PHOTO EDITOR

During the Feb. 22 Student Senate meeting, Student Affairs Vice President Matt Baker and Finance and Administration Vice President Stacy Carrick presented about designated fees for the 2022 fiscal year. Tuition and fees make up 70% of the University’s \$104 million budget.

mine what they will cost for the next fiscal and academic year.

In the presentation, Carrick said enrollment is volatile. She said around 960 freshmen enrolled this last academic year, and freshmen enrollment is projected to increase by around 100

students next academic year.

Although Senate will be making the decision on whether the price of designated fees will rise or fall, Carrick and Baker will give three more presentations in an effort to provide senators all of the information they need for the vote.

After the presentation, Senate heard from Sigma Tau Delta: Northwest’s chapter of the International English Honor Society. Senate voted to approve the organization as an official chapter.

The Senate also appropriated \$1,500 to Tau Kappa Epsilon to travel to the Regional Leadership Conference in Chicago.

After the appropriation, the Student Activities Council said it will announce through its social media Feb. 25 who will be performing the concert April 8.

The final topic of discussion was the theme of Homecoming for this year and Homecoming king and queen nominations. The Senate voted on the theme to be “Welcome to the Jungle.”

More details will be revealed by Student Senate and the Homecoming committee as Homecoming gets closer. Student Senate’s Homecoming king and queen nominations were Inclusion Chair Popoola Oluwadamilola and Treasurer Jenna Lee-Johnson.

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MADDISYN GERHARDT PHOTOGRAPHER
Minority Men's Organization President Camron Radford speaks at one of the organizations various events hosted during Black History Month.

Campus organization educates on Black history

KENNEDY KALVODA
News Reporter | @KKalvoda1

Black History Month will be coming to a close in a matter of days. Many of the organizations at Northwest are planning to end this month of reflection and education on a high note. One of these groups is the Minority Men’s Organization.

MMO is an organization that is committed to the achievement and advancement of minority men on campus in all areas, including social, academic and professional areas. They have hosted a wide variety of events, such as kickball tournaments and open mic nights.

MMO President Junior Camron Radford, took on the role because he was a general member of the organization his freshman year, and he liked what the organization was about and wanted to continue to be in it.

“Before the first semester of my freshman year was over, the president and vice president were seniors, so they were graduating. And they asked who wanted to do what, and I raised my hand for it,” Radford said. “But in the second semester, we went online, and MMO kind of died out. So this year is a restart.”

Radford said MMO is like a family, a “brotherhood” for him.

“I know that there are fraternities and stuff like that, but for people who don’t want to do that, you have MMO,” Radford said.

Secretary and Treasurer Darren Ross also said MMO is unique because of the amount of brotherhood in the organization. They always make sure to stay in contact with one another, he said, and help out both members and nonmembers.

“We’re making sure that not only are we getting

together for the fun events, but we also make sure that we keep each other in check, making sure they’re academically, socially, and mentally and financially OK,” Ross said. “We’re not afraid to reach out and assist people when they need our help, not only in the organization but also outside the organization. We’re always reaching our hands out to help other people.”

Ross took on the leadership role in MMO because he wanted to be a part of an organization that involved mostly Black people, so he could connect with others who are similar to him.

“After the previous president moved on, I looked into trying to take over that role because I felt like we could do just as well, if not better, than what they’ve shown us. I definitely wanted to make it known that this organization can be even better if we just have the right stepping stones,” Ross said.

Ross said for him, MMO is a group of minority men who have a purpose at Northwest to provide information, education and social awareness about the struggles that minorities face to all.

In honor of Black History Month coming to an end, MMO will host a panel at 6 p.m. Feb. 28 in the J.W. Jones Student Union Boardroom. The panel will include Assistant Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion Justin Mallett and University Police Department Chief Clarence Green, among others.

“It will be a discussion about the Black experience, and there will be a wide range of backgrounds. The panel will be asked a wide variety of questions from the audience so that they can get an understanding of how it really is to be Black, especially in Maryville,” Ross said.

Theatre department puts on final production from professor

JAKE PRATER
News Reporter | @JakobLPrater

The Department of Fine and Performing Arts has begun showing the first plays of the semester, with a series of student-directed one acts and Jean-Paul Sartre’s comedic tragedy “No Exit.”

“No Exit” is set to perform Feb. 24 - 27. The dark comedy depicts three deceased souls locked in a room together for all eternity as punishment, learning “Hell is other people,” one of Sartre’s most famous quotes.

The show is directed by professor Theo Ross and will begin at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 24-26 and at 2 p.m. Feb. 27. It will be the professor's final production; he will retire in the summer.

“I selected this play over two years ago, and since then, our country, indeed the entire world, has been faced with existential threats on multiple fronts,” Ross said in the director’s note of the show’s program. “Our production of ‘No Exit’ does not take a side on any issue confronting the social situation today, but it does ask that audience members consider how the choices they make define and impact themselves and others.”

Theatre Northwest showed “A Spring Evening of One Acts” Feb. 18 and 19. It consisted of four one-act plays directed by students. There was “Time Flies,” directed by senior Rhiannon Hopkins; “Off the Map,” directed by senior Haley Kernes; “Ashes,” directed by junior Noah Graham; and “Down Came the Rain,” directed by junior Emilia Plasek.

“Time Flies” tells the story of two flies on a date who learn how to make the most of their short lives and seize the day. Hopkins called the experience

of directing a one-act play “incredibly eye-opening.”

“It was a little challenging putting all my ideas onto the stage, but I am so glad that I got to produce my ideas,” Hopkins said in an email to the Missourian. “As a future drama teacher, I feel like this was one of the most valuable experiences that I've had my whole college career.”

“I totally was not expecting the level of commitment that I received from my actors, and without them, I don’t think the production would have been half of what it was,” Hopkins said. “I truly cannot give my team enough attention for the



ADDALYNN BRADBURY PHOTO EDITOR
In the Northwest Theatre's production of "No Exit," Garcin (Marcos Rodriguez) and Estelle (Grace Garrigan) embrace.

work that they put into the show. They made my last production everything I could have dreamed of.”

“Off the Map” is a comedy that tells the story of a married couple who have come to a stand-still in their marriage and end up in a mysterious location unknown to them.

Kernes, the director of “Off the Map,” said in an email to the Missourian that the production was everything she hoped for and more, and the cast and crew worked hard on the project, which she said she will never forget.

“Being able to make those decisions and see my vision come to life is an indescribable feeling,” Kernes said. “I am thankful for the experience and am looking forward to when I get to do it again.”

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RENEE HASKELL PHOTOGRAPHER
Assistant Vice President of Health and Wellbeing Chris Dawe speaks with an event attendee during the third annual mental wellness event, I Will Listen exhibit. The event started with an introduction by Hope 4 All coordinator Monica Ziegel.

Wellness event confronts health stigmas

DESTINY HUBER
Missourian Reporter | @TheMissourian

Northwest hosted its third annual mental wellness event, I Will Listen, aimed at reducing stigmas surrounding mental illness and promoting discussions about mental health disorders.

The event featured speakers from the Behavioral Science Association, University Wellness Center, mental health professionals and a Nodaway-Holt student.

Attendees had the opportunity to participate in yoga, Zumba and meditation sessions and visit various resource rooms, in addition to the art exhibit where community members displayed art representing their interpretations of mental health.

The event started with an introduction by Hope 4 All coordinator Monica Ziegel.

“The purpose of I Will Listen is to end the stigma surrounding mental health,” Ziegel said. “If anything good has come out of the COVID-19 pandemic, I believe it’s the fact that we are more focused on mental health.”

Behavioral Science Association President Olivia Babinski was the first speaker. Babinski

opened up about her struggles with her mental health and gave the attendees a piece of advice.

“There are so many opportunities for us to impact one person’s life,” Babinski said.

The second speaker was Nicole Harnisch, a certified mental health performance counselor. Harnisch focuses on mental health for athletes. As an athlete herself, she understands the pressure that athletes face on a daily basis and the effects that can have on their mental health.

“I think that athletes have a special way about them. They get to experience some really incredible highs, but some pretty difficult lows,” Harnisch said. “There is an extra layer of stigma for athletes.”

She said there is an expectation for athletes to be mentally tough, but there’s often not someone who shows them how.

The third speaker was Isaiah McBride, a functional family therapist. His job is to isolate the problem and help the family overcome it.

“We shouldn’t look at the negatives. We have to look at the way we communicate with each other,” McBride said.

Ziegel teared up while introducing the fourth speaker, Nodaway-Holt student Payton Walker.

This speaker hit close to home with Ziegel, as Walker is her daughter. Walker was diagnosed with obsessive-compulsive disorder and schizophrenia in late 2021.

“I wanted to be able to give perspective of schizophrenia from a parent’s point of view, and then from her point of view,” Ziegel said.

Walker struggled with her mental health for years. She was misdiagnosed, and the medicines her primary care doctor prescribed were not helping. She experienced auditory and visual hallucinations, she said, and was convinced she was haunted. She tried to take her own life and only then was she referred to a counselor and psychiatrist.

“I hate that a suicide attempt is what it took to get me a referral, not years of no mental health improvement,” Walker said.

However, a proper diagnosis was not the end of Walker’s issues. She still struggles with the stigmas surrounding schizophrenia due to the media’s representation of her disorder.

“Mental health disorders are normal, and we should not be ashamed. So here’s to ending the stigma,” Walker said.

CRIME LOG

for the week of Feb. 24

Northwest Missouri State University Police Department

- Feb. 21**
There is an open investigation for stealing in an unknown location.
- Feb. 20**
There is a closed investigation for a warrant for an arrest in Parking Lot 38.
- Feb. 19**
There is a closed investigation for a liquor law violation in Franken Hall.
There is a closed investigation for a liquor law violation in Hudson Hall.
- Feb. 18**
There is a closed investigation for domestic violence on Fifth Street.
There is a closed investigation for a fire alarm in Roberta Hall.

Maryville Police Department

- Feb. 22**
A summons was issued to **Elizabeth P. Underwood**, 19, for possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia on the 300 block of North Mulberry Street.
There was an accident between **Brenda S. Schrod**t, 58, and **Dianne L. Burns**, 60, on the 2000 block of South Main Street.
There was an accident between **Rigoberto C. Valencia**, 39, and **Brent E. Christofferson** on the 900 block of South Main Street.
- Feb. 21**
There was an accident between an unknown driver and **Madeline L. Waldeier** on the 1600 block of South Main Street.
- Feb. 20**
There is an ongoing investigation for assault on the 200 block of East Third Street.
There is an ongoing investigation for harassment on the 200 block of Volunteer Avenue.

- A summons was issued to **Kenneth G. Weaver**, 45, for failure to appear in court on the 400 block of North Market Street.
- A summons was issued to **Trevor S. Burrows**, 24, for driving while intoxicated and an equipment violation on the 200 block of South Main Street.
- A summons was issued to **Patrick J. Harris**, 20, for failure to appear in court on the 400 block of North Market Street.
- A summons was issued to **Emily N. Wheeler**, 19, for a minor in possession, possession of a fake ID, speeding and failure to maintain financial responsibility on the 1100 block of South Main Street.
- Feb. 19**
There is an ongoing investigation for property damage on the 200 block of North Water Street.
A summons was issued to **Kody A. Wigle**, 19, for a minor in possession on the 200 block of East Second Street.

- Feb. 18**
There is an ongoing investigation for larceny on the 500 Block of North Laura Street.
A summons was issued to **Amber R. Baker**, 23, and **William A.D. Phillips**, 24, for a peace disturbance on the 600 block of East First Street.
There is an ongoing investigation for domestic assault on the 300 block of Volunteer Avenue.
A summons was issued to **Sriram Thoram**, 25, for driving while intoxicated and an equipment violation on the 200 block of West Fifth Street.
- Feb. 17**
There was an accident between **Zakary T. Moore**, 20, and **Trevor A. Dusenbery**, 19, on the 300 block of West Fourth Street.
- Feb. 16**
A bicycle was recovered on the 700 block of West Thompson Street.
- Feb. 15**
There is an ongoing investigation for larceny on the 1500 block of South Main Street.



MADDISYN GERHARDT PHOTOGRAPHER
Sunshine Dispensary, located at 2317 S. Main Street, is a new business in Maryville that offers medical marijuana. The new business comes nearly three years after Amendment 2 was passed, legalizing medicinal marijuana in Missouri.

DISPENSARY

CONTINUED FROM A1

Gunnels began growing cannabis after learning about the medicinal marijuana industry.

“University towns are generally pretty good for our industry,” Carriger said.

From Maryville, the nearest medical marijuana dispensary is in St. Joseph, Missouri, another university town.

“If you look west, north and east, we have a really big catchment area where we’re serving the whole corner of a state,” he said. “That was a big part of why we located to Maryville.”

Carriger said the dispensary’s goal is to see recreational cannabis appear on the Missouri 2022 ballot.

“Missouri voted in medical cannabis at an approval rate of 67%, which is highest in the country,” Carriger said. “It seems that Missouri embraces the medicinal side of the cannabis industry.”

The cannabis products Sunrise distributes goes through the same manufacturing standards other pharmaceuticals are held to, including a Good Manufacturing Practices certificate from the Food and Drug Administration.

“It’s not your cousin’s brick weed that he got from a dealer down the street,” Carriger said.

Before any of Sunrise’s products are allowed to be sold, they’re tested for pesticides, heavy metals, residual solvents, water content and mildew.

“We operate at a much, much stricter standard than even certified organic produce is allowed to use,” Carriger said. “So the products that we’re selling are extremely clean and very safe. I’ve always had the attitude that if people are going to consume, then at least they should be consuming something that’s healthy and safe.”

This isn’t the first cannabis-related change in Maryville. Sunrise opened its Maryville dispensary three months after the University started its new cannabis education program.

“I was extremely encouraged to hear that the University has some cannabis education that’s being integrated into various majors,” Carriger said. “We’re thrilled that Maryville and the University has seen that cannabis is mainstream science. I think after 100 years of prohibition in the United States, we’re going to be on the right side of history by being involved.”

FOR THE CULTURE:
February ends but inclusion shouldn't



CORBIN SMITH
Opinion Editor
@curly_corbs

Black History Month is coming to a close, and it's just as sad as years prior. I'm still going to be Black, obviously, and February is just another month. I'm sad that society's drive to learn about history and culture will dwindle to a minimum.

Various factors encourage people to investigate the Black experience. For some, it's their white savior complex, while others aim to label themselves "cultured." The right motive should stem from someone's genuine interest in the Black experience and desire to grow as an ally.

The Black community is not a problem to be solved. Yes, there are problems within the Black community that require discussion, but that's no different from any social group. People should view Black history like any other aspect of history. You ask questions about religion; you do Google searches about world wars — Black history shouldn't be any different.

However, Black people aren't an almanac of Black knowledge. Unfortunately, we've been deprived of essential history lessons just like everybody else. It doesn't hurt to ask, but don't assume that all Black people know everything there is to know. That goes for members of the Black community as well.

I understand Black trauma isn't the easiest conversation starter. If you're uncomfortable asking these questions to a friend, maybe you're not comfortable with them as a person. I think it's important to have a mutually understanding relationship with someone before asking difficult questions. Realistically, you wouldn't ask for relationship advice from someone you met a week ago. You'll seek advice from someone who knows you, someone you trust. Asking about the Black experience is similar to that.

One of the best ways to learn about a culture is to immerse yourself in it. It's one thing to try and be a part of Black culture, but attending events that openly discuss the intricacies of Blackness or show appreciation for it is different. These events are to help open the minds of all types of people to get a better understanding of intercultural relations.

No Black person should shun white people, or any non-Black person, for showing up in support of a Black-hosted event. If they do, they're creating the "separate but equal" standard civil rights activists fought so hard to get rid of.

At the end of the day, the Black community should desire integration, and the only way to achieve that is by welcoming others to learn how it works and why it's a close-knit community.

February may be the peak of Blackness in America, but it doesn't mean history shouldn't be as accessible. Conversations about the Black experience should be referenced as often as I've used the term Black in this column. Black people should invite non-Black individuals to experience their culture more often, and non-Black individuals should accept the invitation in return.

THE STROLLER:
Your Bearcat loves ice-cold Tuesdays

On Tuesday — also known as twosday — the people of Maryville awoke to an unexpected inch of ice on their windshields. Not only did we get to spend half an hour scraping it off of our cars, we were also blessed with testing out the theory of death while driving to our morning classes.

I don't know about you, but all of the 12-year-olds on TikTok told me that if I interacted with their video three times,

then I would have the best day of my life on twosday. I must have missed one because I didn't think I would have to wake up Tuesday morning and drive on black ice.

By midday, the roads were fine, and I would classify them as safe to drive on. But Northwest also gave us the pleasure of not canceling morning classes and hoped we would all get to campus sans death.

Now, I might not be the best driver in this town, but I

think it is safe to say that I am not the only one who walked outside, attempted to walk to their car, almost fell, decided "that's not happening" and walked back inside.

I apologize for missing my morning classes on this fine twosday, but my nonexistent manifestations did not include dying on the trip to campus — though that would be a nice check towards my funeral. I am so glad I chose to go to a college

that doesn't believe in snow days just as much as I don't believe in Hellen Keller — side note, there is no way that woman was real.

Although you might not want to classify this as what the University likes to call "inclement weather days," might I interest you in creating "we don't want our students to crash their car" days?

The Stroller has been a tradition since 1918 and does not reflect the views of The Northwest Missourian.



ALEXANDRIA MESZ CARTOONIST

OUR VIEW:
High rise bathrooms should utilize electronic key fobs

The actions of one depraved individual at Northwest made numerous others feel unsafe just weeks ago. A particularly disgusting person was charged with invading the privacy of women in the Millikan dormitory bathrooms — one he should not have had access to — while they were showering and filmed them. Thankfully, the person in question was found and apprehended by University Police.

Obviously, this individual bears responsibility for revolting actions in violating one of the basic rights an individual has. However, the University, in part, bears the blame for this.

This situation is not possible in any other dorms except the high-rises. Northwest should act swiftly to make sure it is no longer possible there, either. The right to privacy should not be based on the cost it takes to live in particular dorms on campus. Northwest should begin installing fob lock systems on bathrooms in Millikan, Dieterich and Franken to protect its students.

In all dorms besides the high-rises — Perrin and Hudson, Roberta, North and South Complex, Tower Suites and Forest Village Apartments — bathroom entry requires a fob, or a key if

the bathroom is located in the room. Simply put, nobody outside of those designated by the University to access the bathrooms can in those dorms.

The fob system is already used by residents to get into the high-rise dorms; it would be an easy and quick solution for Northwest to install fob locks on floor bathrooms and issue fobs that only allow residents on that floor to use that bathroom.

Northwest recently switched over the fobs for Wells Hall. While the process was started just days before the semester began, causing a time crunch, it was completed in time for those who needed the new fobs — Missourian editors among them — to receive them and use the new system.

With spring break on the horizon — a time when dorms are as empty as they will ever be during a semester — Northwest already has a time when it could make this switch and improve security for its residents.

It's no secret the bathroom situation in the high-rise dorms turns current and prospective students away from living there. The bathrooms are shared by more people and tend to feel more like a locker room than a restroom at a residence. Because of the na-

ture of these bathrooms — and location, among other things — the cost of the high-rises is less, and they are usually the last dorms to fill up every year.

A single bed in Millikan or Dieterich costs around \$500 less than one in Tower Suites and a little under \$575 less than a bed in Perrin or Hudson. Franken, while slightly more expensive than the other high-rises because of recent renovations, also costs less than every other dorm.

The individual right to privacy should not cost \$500 a semester. It should be freely given to any student who stays on this campus — and any person who draws breath.

Yes, it may seem like an overreaction because of the actions of one person. Sadly, we often have to base decisions — security and otherwise — on the lowest common denominator in society. If a fob system in high rises gives residents a sense of security and deters even one future invasive action, then it will be worth it.

Students living in these dorms deserve dignity and respect. One person tried to take that dignity and respect. It shouldn't have been able to happen then, and Northwest should take steps to make sure it can never happen again.

YOUR VIEW:
Do you feel high rises should have fobs to get into bathrooms?

NICK AUSTIN
Senior
Video Production



"Yeah, it'd add privacy and safety. There's no reason not to. I'm sure being in Millikan right now brings a lot of people anxiety, so it'd help their general well-being."

SYDNEY STEWART
Senior
Vocal Music Education



"Whatever you're doing in the bathroom is personal, and that should be your private space. Everyone needs to feel safe, and key fobs could keep unwanted people out of private areas."

CHRISTIAN BOSWELL
Freshman
Management
Information Systems



"It'd make a lot of sense to have key fobs to get into the bathrooms. Otherwise, you're basically letting situations like what happened recently in Millikan happen again."

UPCOMING
GAMES

NW MBB

vs. Fort Hays
3:30 p.m. Feb. 26
Bearcat Arena

MIAA Tournament
March 2-6
Kansas City, Missouri

NW WBB

vs. Fort Hays
1:30 p.m. Feb. 26
Bearcat Arena

MIAA Tournament
March 2-6
Kansas City, Missouri

MHS BBB

@ Chillicothe
7:30 p.m. Feb. 24
Chillicothe, Missouri

vs. Cameron
2:30 p.m. Feb. 26
'Hound Pound

NF T&F

MIAA Championships
Feb. 25-27
Hughes Fieldhouse

NW SFB

@ Drury
11 a.m. Feb. 26
Springfield, Missouri

@ Southwest Baptist
2:30 p.m. Feb. 26
Springfield, Missouri

@ Midwestern State
12:45 p.m. Feb. 27
Springfield, Missouri

@ Southwest Baptist
2:30 p.m. Feb. 27
Springfield, Missouri

NW BSB

vs. Central Missouri
2 p.m. Feb. 26
Bearcat Baseball Field

vs. Central Missouri
1 p.m. Feb. 27
Bearcat Baseball Field

vs. Central Missouri
1 p.m. Feb. 28
Bearcat Baseball Field

MHS GBB

@ Chillicothe
6:15 p.m. Feb. 24
Chillicothe, Missouri

vs. Cameron
1 p.m. Feb. 26
'Hound Pound

Maryville hoops
ready for district
tourneys, familiar
conferences foes

CORBIN SMITH
Sports Reporter | @curly_corbs
JADEN FERGUSON
Missourian Reporter | @ NWMSports

Maryville girls basketball will start its journey to a fourth consecutive district championship appearance Feb. 28. The Spoofhounds secured the No. 4 seed in MSHSAA’s Class 4 District 16 Tournament and will host No. 5 Cameron in the quarterfinals.

For the first time since the 2016-17 season, Maryville (14-8) dropped outside of the top three seeds. In each of its last two seasons, Maryville enjoyed a first-round bye, but it’ll have to get past two teams that added to the Spoofhounds’ loss column this season to return to the championship game.

Maryville traveled to Cameron (15-9) Feb. 14 and returned home with a 51-49 loss. The loss was “uncharacteristic” of the team according to coach Kelly Obley, but she credited the Dragons for playing a perfectly antagonizing scheme to halt the Spoofhounds’ offense.

“They’re well-coached, and their zone defense caused our offense trouble,” Obley exhaled into the phone following the Feb. 14 loss. “I think the girls started to second guess them-

selves and what they were doing, so that caused our offense to kind of stall and some turnovers to happen. In the games previously, they just played with a lot more freedom and confidence.”

Obley has used her first year at the helm of the program to make it a point to focus on progression over perfection. With each game, she analyzes what went wrong but also focuses on how the team grows from its mistakes. Her team will have to re-watch film from earlier in the season again if it’s able to put away Cameron in the first round.

With a win, Maryville will have a chance to avenge another loss dealt by Benton, which secured the No. 1 seed. The Cardinals had the Spoofhounds licking their wounds after a 65-35 beating Feb. 10 in the ‘Hound Pound.

Despite the challenging road ahead, Obley said she likes the position her team is in. First matter of business for the ‘Hounds: district quarterfinals.

Maryville boys basketball will face a familiar foe in Cameron during the first round of the 2022 MSHSAA Class 4 District 16 Tournament Feb. 26.

The Spoofhounds (11-11)



ADDALYNN BRADBURY PHOTO EDITOR

Maryville High School freshman forward Alyssa Cunningham goes up for a shot in the first quarter of the Spoofhounds’ Jan. 13 game against St. Pius X early in the season. Maryville girls basketball will start its journey to a fourth consecutive district championship appearance Feb. 28.

earned the No. 4 seed in the district and will play MEC rival and fifth-seeded Cameron (6-18) for the third time this season. Despite two previous Spoofhound wins, the Dragons still pose a threat to the Spoofhounds’ season.

“We are just looking forward to playing, and Cameron is a confident team,” junior guard Caden Stoecklein said. “Beating a team three times in one season isn’t easy for anyone; we just have to come out play as a team, play good defense, and then, with our talent and our skill, I think we can definitely go onto the next round.”

Maryville claimed third place in the Cameron Tournament Jan. 28 with a 10-point victory over the Dragons and, less than two weeks later, grinded out another victory Feb. 8 at the ‘Hound Pound, completing the season sweep by beating the Dragons 74-68.

Meeting in districts is nothing new for the two squads, as Maryville was able to beat Cam-

eron 59-46 in last season’s first round, but the Dragons will seek revenge this year in hopes of getting their first district win since 2013.

The Spoofhounds will play Cameron at 2:30 p.m. Feb. 26 at host site Benton, and if they prevail, the ‘Hounds will play cross-conference rival and top-seeded Lafayette (15-6) at 5:30 p.m. March 1. Lafayette previously beat Maryville 63-39 Jan. 6.

The Class 4 District 16 includes No. 3 Chillicothe (16-7) playing No. 6 Savannah (4-20) at 2 p.m., with the winner advancing to face No. 2 Benton (17-8) at 7 p.m. March 1.

The championship game will be at 6 p.m. March 4, and the winner will advance to sectionals in the MSHSAA Class 4 Tournament.

“Our goal is to just take it one game at a time and focus on what we do best and play with lots of energy and just have fun playing together, and good things will happen,” Stoecklein said.

CHAMPS
CONTINUED FROM A8

“The girls, I think, are sitting top three,” Hughey said. “There’s a chance we could be first if everything goes exactly right, so I think I just want everybody to do their best and get as many points as we can score. We’ll see what happens.”

Hughey has earned an NCAA provisional time in the 200-meter dash and the 400, and she’ll have one more opportunity this weekend to earn a provisional time in her final event — the 4x400-meter relay.

Regarding the men, Masters

said they’re a little banged up and down in numbers, but he said he believes they can have success.

“For them, our goal is to get to nationals with both of our relays,” Masters said. “That would be the ideal scenario — and to finish top of the podium in a couple other places.”

Sophomore Blake Morgan doesn’t want to put too much pressure on himself going into the weekend, but he wants to compete well and do the best he can.

“Obviously, the goal is to win, right? First and foremost,” Morgan said. “We want to win the championship. With our limited numbers this year, it is going to be tougher just because

we don’t have as many people on the team.”

“If we pull out a lot of points and maybe pull off an upset, I think that’d be really fun.”

Morgan took the past week off, which allowed him to go home, rest and prepare for the MIAA Championships, which he said was much-needed because of his tired legs and sore body. Morgan said his parents, who are Pittsburg State alumni, have always been his biggest supporters, despite his affiliations with Northwest, and will continue to wish for his success — even if it’s against their alma mater.

Morgan already has an NCAA provisional mark in high jump

— the only event he competes in. He set that mark at the Northwest Open Jan. 22 in Hughes Fieldhouse with a jump of 2.14 meters (7 feet, ¼ inch).

“We want our kids to sit at the top of the podium,” Masters said. “Goals are also getting to nationals. This is a very competitive meet, and it’s the best competition we’ve faced all year long, top to bottom, on one of the fastest tracks in the country, which we know is our home.”

“We have the team (and) the kids to get after our goals, and at this point ... we’re supporting them and hopeful that they will be at their best when the light is brightest.”

SWEPT
CONTINUED FROM A8

Northwest lost five home games in a row during the 2010-11 season, but the ‘Cats went 4,036 days between then and their latest consecutive losses.

“With the standards we have on the team from previous generations, it’s like we’re not living up to it,” said Northwest red-shirt freshman forward Daniel Abreu, who had 11 points and four rebounds. “It is what it is.”

Things weren’t always as bleak for the Bearcats, at least not as much when Emporia graduate student guard Tray Buchanan nailed a pair of free throws to put the Hornets up by 4 points with 2.6 seconds left in the game.

The ‘Cats (23-5, 16-4 MIAA) used the game’s opening moments to flip the script on their cold spell from the first meeting, when they scored the fewest points the program had seen since March 2019, and it was in large part due to junior guard Trevor Hudgins.

Hudgins got going early against the Hornets (19-7, 14-6

MIAA), using his patented step-back 3-pointer to give Northwest a 7-3 lead and force Emporia coach Craig Doty to use a timeout.

It wasn’t too long after that moment that Emporia started to fight back, though. After the Bearcats clawed their way to a 20-13 lead, the Hornets rattled off a 10-0 run to take the lead.

“I thought, defensively, we just weren’t very good,” McCollum said. “Just gotta be better.”

Emporia took advantage of Northwest junior guard Diego Bernard’s two fouls within the first five minutes, which effectively placed him on the bench for the remainder of the first half. Bernard being absent until the break caused some confusion on Northwest’s defense.

The Bearcats, of course, couldn’t carry on with the defensive scheme they brought into the game. Then the mistakes started to creep up, epitomized by Emporia senior forward Brenden Van Dyke eventually dropping a career-high 25 points.

“We just weren’t doing our right reads,” Abreu said. “We covered them in practice and all,

but I’d say it was a player mistake — on the floor, we didn’t execute our defense how we planned it.”

Hudgins eventually cooled off, missing four of his final five shots in the first half after making his first three. That didn’t matter for the Bearcats anyway, because despite Hudgins’ drop-off after compiling 11 first-half points and Bernard’s truancy, they were knotted in a 31-31 tie with Emporia.

The problem, at least for Northwest, is that Hudgins’ scoreless skid continued deep into the second half. He went 24 minutes and 5 seconds of action without scoring.

“I mean, it’s Trevor, like, every team knows they’ve gotta be up on him,” Abreu said. “We’ve just gotta learn how to play with him and without him.”

He eventually got going again, nailing a triple at the 8:30 mark of the second to cut into Emporia’s 55-51 lead. He used the final eight minutes to drop 13 second-half points to finish with a team-high 24.

But perhaps none of his buckets were as important as the free throw he drained with 1:16 left

to give the Bearcats a 71-70 lead.

Despite everything they had withstood to that point, the ‘Cats had a chance to seize every opportunity in front of them.

But the chances of them doing so dissipated with every second that ran off the clock, as Emporia used that final minute to outscore the Bearcats 6-4 by way of six straight makes from the charity stripe.

“We just don’t wanna do the little things that win you games — we don’t wanna do ‘em,” McCollum said. “That’s on me; I’ve gotta be a better coach.”

As their chances of a ninth straight MIAA regular-season title evaporate with just two games

left before the postseason, they’ll make their final conference road trip of the season when they play Nebraska-Kearney Feb. 23. They’ll follow that up by closing the regular season against Fort Hays State Feb. 26 at home. The Bearcats’ matchup with Kearney was not done in time for publication.

McCollum’s message for his squad isn’t going to be delivered in a Shakespeare-like monologue. In fact, knowing there isn’t much longer to right the ship before it sinks, it’s simpler than that.

“You either get better or you lose,” McCollum said. “You gotta find a way to get better or you lose. That is what it is.”

SWEEP
CONTINUED FROM A8

“My focus was on getting open, and I did that, and my teammates found me,” Hartnett said.

She was not by herself, though, as McConkey (15) and Kelderman (12) also scored in double figures.

McConkey’s 15-point outing marked the 50th time in her career she scored double-digit points.

While Hartnett scored the most on the team, Meyer said it was the entire team’s mentality that helped toward the balanced offensive effort.

“They stayed aggressive all game, and they didn’t let themselves focus too much on what might’ve happened before,” Meyer said.

After the win against Emporia, Northwest is left with two more regular season games against Nebraska-Kearney (20-

6, 15-5 MIAA) and No. 9 Fort Hays State (23-3, 17-3 MIAA).

That aggressive mindset is exactly what Meyer wants his players to maintain heading into the final week of the regular season.

“We talk about confidence a lot, and these last two wins are huge in gaining some,” Meyer said. “Everyone knows this is a tough conference, so every win is great. But our main focus will always be to improve.”

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Northwest women's basketball players (from left to right) sophomore Paityn Rau, redshirt freshman Emma Atwood and senior Kylie Coleman look on during a game against Emporia State Feb. 8.

Three Bearcats open up about toiled recoveries

WESLEY MILLER
Asst. Sports Editor | @wesleymiller360

People involved with sports deal with injuries on a regular basis. Coaches and players must continuously find ways to prevent them from occurring.

For athletes, injuries come with the possibility of missed playing time and being forced to adapt to a new style of play.

For Northwest women's basketball senior Kylie Coleman, sophomore Paityn Rau and redshirt freshman Emma Atwood, that possibility became a reality.

"I remember at the beginning, it was just frustrating ... like a defeating feeling," Rau said. "You can't even really describe it, but you just feel helpless and hopeless because there's nothing you can do."

While there is a physical struggle to overcome injuries, there is just as much a mental side — both of which the players had to work through.

For Atwood, her issues with injuries started when she still donned the red and white for Central Decatur High School. Her first major injury came freshman year at Decatur, she said, where she suffered a torn ACL in her left knee.

Atwood went on to earn three all-state selection honors and score 1,434 points during her high school career, but the injuries followed when she became a Bearcat.

She redshirted for the 2019-20 season, but she started the first four games of 2020-21, scoring in double digits three times, including a career-high 16 against Lincoln Dec. 5, 2020.

But just three days after her career game, on a fateful Tuesday, everything changed. While in the middle of practice, in preparation for Northwest's exhibition game against Drake, Atwood tore her ACL, this time in her right knee.

"It was just a helpless feeling," Atwood said. "I don't know how else to describe it."

In Rau's senior season at Waukee High School, which sits roughly two hours northeast of Maryville, Rau also earned an all-state selection. That, Rau said, is the time her hip issues began.

So, coming into her freshman season at Northwest, she was also already suffering from a labral tear in her left hip. She opted to play through it for the season, in which she started all but one of the team's 30 games, and she had the surgery for her hip March 10, 2020, at the conclusion of the season.

"Playing on that my freshman

year was not easy at all," Rau said with a laugh. "It was a lot of pain and a lot of, 'Just get through it.'"

But for Rau, things got worse before they got better.

Later that same offseason, in June 2020, she tore her left ACL, which, combined with her hip surgery, effectively sidelined her for the entirety of the 2020-21 season.

"That was very defeating, and it was a very, very hard time," Rau said, who choked up amid talking about the situation.

There was 1:04 left in the third quarter of Northwest's game against Emporia Jan. 19, 2021. The Bearcats held a 47-38 lead when Emporia freshman guard Ehlaina Hartman attempted a 3-pointer. The shot bounced off the back of the rim, and amid going for the rebound, Coleman collapsed onto the floor while holding her left knee.

Coleman was eventually helped off the court and received a standing ovation from the fans in attendance. Northwest lost the game 58-51, but the biggest loss had already come. Coleman was later confirmed to have torn her ACL.

"Having basketball taken away ... that was hard," Rau said.

The days and minutes that were spent on preparing for the next game were suddenly used instead for recovery.

While the trio had different recovery paths, they all said



Northwest senior Kylie Coleman and redshirt freshman Emma Atwood (23), along with graduate assistant Ashley Harvey (far left) and freshman Evelyn Vazquez (3) watch during the Bearcats' 77-65 win over Emporia State Feb. 21.

feeling of being forced to watch as their teammates practiced and played without them.

"It definitely did not feel fair," Atwood said.

"The toughest thing was wanting to help your teammates, but you're stuck on the sidelines for the 40 minutes of the game," Coleman said.

Despite being at what many people might call rock bottom, all three continued to work for a chance to be back on the court with their teammates. All three accomplished that goal.

"I think my injuries have helped me become mentally tougher," Atwood said.

"I had really high expectations for myself coming back, and after going through all of preseason and then getting hurt in the first game was hard to process," Atwood said.

Fortunately for Atwood, the injury did not sideline her as long as it could have. While she did miss six games, she returned to the lineup Dec. 11 against Lincoln and has remained there ever since.

"I definitely give myself some credit for being able to battle through the things I faced," Atwood said.

Rau started the first 19 games for the Bearcats, but the issues with her hip and knee began to

season, Coleman made her return Nov. 26 against Rockhurst.

In the middle of a win over Rogers State Dec. 4, Coleman took the ball to the top of the key with 1:47 remaining in the game. She quickly lost control of the ball and fell to the floor. With tears in her eyes and hands on her knee, it wasn't long until the spectators in Bearcat Arena realized what happened.

The pain from the injury was horrible, she said, but that was not where the most pain came from.

"That's when it hit me, like, 'You're never playing basketball again,' and that's what tore me up the most," Coleman said. "That's where most of my tears were from. Yes, there was pain, but it was more so realizing that the sport I loved and grew up with and had pretty much engulfed my entire life was gone. ... That is probably the worst thing."

Despite being hit with a career-ending injury a mere nine days after returning from her first knee surgery, Coleman did not walk away from basketball.

Instead, assistant coach Addae Houston offered her the chance to help with scouting, and she did not hesitate to accept.

Atwood, Coleman and Rau all hit all-time lows, but have, in more than one way, found a way to contribute to the team with its highest season win total since the 2011-12 season.

Through the pain, sweat and blood, Coleman, Rau and Atwood said they were thankful for the support they got, and continue to get, from their family, friends and fans.

"It's a pretty special place, and I don't think I can find that anywhere else," Rau said. "Maryville has definitely become my second home and home away from home. I got really lucky."

“The rehab was a lot of pain, a lot of sweat and a lot of blood.”

-PAITYN RAU
SOPHOMORE FORWARD, NORTHWEST WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

the rehab was one of the most memorable parts — even if they didn't want it to be.

"It's about working harder and being dedicated everyday when you do rehab," Atwood said.

"The rehab was a lot of pain, a lot of sweat and a lot of blood," Rau said. "I know that's cliché, but anyone who has gone through an ACL surgery knows it's brutal."

The pain, sweat and blood did not end quickly for the three players, either.

The three, combined, sat out for a total of 997 days. Rau's absence led the group with a wallowing 612 days.

One of the other memorable parts of their struggles was the

Atwood, Coleman and Rau were all able to return to the court at one point during the 2021-22 season.

However, even as the new year began, it was far from smooth sailing for any of the three.

In her first game back — the first game of the season against Southwest Minnesota State — Atwood got the nod to start the game.

She was substituted back into the game with 4:49 to go in the first quarter. The Bearcats were on offense, and Atwood received a pass from senior guard Malloory McConkey and attempted a signature reverse layup on the baseline. While the shot missed its mark, Atwood collapsed to the ground, holding her right knee.

decrease her playing time, including missing games against Washburn Feb. 19 and Emporia State Feb. 21.

Even though she's going through a rough patch again, Rau said, she just wants to be ready to go whenever she's needed, and she's just thankful for the strides she made to be able to contribute the way she has.

"I was literally dying for this moment again," Rau said. "It's really cool, it's a big blessing — praise God for that — and I'm just very thankful to get the opportunity to play again."

Coleman, though, is still in the middle of her journey.

After working through the off-season and the beginning of the

Bearcats sweep Emporia



ADDALYN BRADBURY
PHOTO EDITOR
Freshman guard Evelyn
Vazquez fights past a player from
Emporia State during the Bearcats’ 77-65
win Feb. 21. Northwest completed its first regular-season sweep
of the Hornets since 1993.

WESLEY MILLER
Asst. Sports Editor | @wesleymiller360

The game was stuck in a back-and-forth battle between Northwest women’s basketball and Emporia State. It was a mere 13 days since the Bearcats emerged victorious in the first match-up between the two squads Feb. 8. That win snapped a 13-game losing streak to the Hornets. There the Bearcats (17-9, 12-8 MIAA) were again, moments before their 77-65 win over Emporia (13-13, 8-12 MIAA). They held a 74-62 lead with 1:46 left in the game, but the score did not show the type of game it had been up to that point. “They switched to zone defense, and we had struggled against a zone defense that last couple weeks,” Northwest coach Austin Meyer said. Every time Northwest would build up a lead, Emporia seemingly came back. The ‘Cats were in search of something to put an end to that trend. And they got it. Senior guard Mallory McConkey, who was the talk of the last meeting, when she totaled 27 points, dribbled to the south end of the court.

After some passing between the Bearcats, the ball ended up in the hands of freshman guard Molly Hartnett, who was standing beyond the 3-point line. The ball left the hands of Hartnett and went toward the basket. Unlike two other 3-point attempts that went in for her earlier in the game, the ball bounced off the orange rim. Freshman guard Evelyn Vazquez was able to get the rebound, her sixth and final one of the game, and found fellow freshman guard Peyton Kelderman wide open on the right wing of the 3-point line. Without a moment of hesitation, Kelderman let it fly. She had been in a similar situation not too long before that moment. Three days prior, Kelderman sank a 3-pointer with 12 seconds left against Washburn — a shot that ultimately led to overtime and a win for Northwest. As the ball floated through the air on Kelderman’s shot with 1:12 left against Emporia, Meyer thought the same thing he thought when she took the shot against Washburn. “It’s going in,” Meyer said. That’s exactly what it did. Kelderman’s shot found the bottom of the net, giving the Bearcats a 77-62 lead. Those were the last points of the game for Northwest, but that was more than enough. The Bearcats secured a 77-65 win over Emporia, marking the first sweep over the Hornets since 1993. “I mean, that’s a long time, and it’s just another box we get to check off as a program,” Meyer said. “We’re finally getting to that point that we wanna be as a team,” Hartnett said. Hartnett more than did her part in contributing to the team’s 17th win on the season. She led the team in scoring with 20 points, her third 20-point game of the season, and totaled five assists.

SEE SWEEP | A6

Men fall to ESU, swept for first time since 2011

JON WALKER
Sports Editor | @ByJohnWalker

Northwest men’s basketball coach Ben McCollum had a lot to think about in the aftermath of a matchup with MIAA foe Emporia State Feb. 21 in Bearcat Arena. Following a 60-59 loss to Washburn Feb. 19, McCollum had to think about the opportunity the No. 7 Bearcats had to avoid back-to-back losses for the first time since December 2015. He had to think about the opportunity his team just had to avenge a 75-56 loss to Emporia from Feb. 8 in Emporia, Kansas. Then, moments removed

from the Hornets handing McCollum and company a 76-75 loss Monday night and the ‘Cats squandering both of the opportunities at hand, he had to think about what needs to change. “Same old story. We make the same mistakes over and over and over. It’s just — I’ve gotta be a better coach,” McCollum said. “It’s the same mistakes; it’s just that I’ve gotta be a better coach.” Those same mistakes led to the Bearcats losing back-to-back games in Maryville for the first time in more than a decade.

SEE SWEPT | A6



JON WALKER SPORTS EDITOR
Northwest men’s basketball junior guard Trevor Hudgins fights through contact from Emporia State graduate student guard Tray Buchanan during the Bearcats’ 75-74 loss to the Hornets Feb. 21 in Bearcat Arena.



ADDALYNN BRADBURY PHOTO EDITOR
Northwest track and field sophomore Oscar Campos clears the bar in high jump at the Bearcat Open Feb. 4. The Bearcats will compete in the MIAA Championships Feb. 25-27 in the Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse.

Track and field eyes top-five finish at MIAA Championships

DAVID DERKS
Missourian Reporter | @NWMSports

After six months of training and competing, Northwest track and field hopes to hit this week’s meet in full stride at the MIAA Championships Feb. 25-27 in the Carl and Cheryl Hughes Fieldhouse. Both the men and the women have high expectations going into this meet, and, according to coach Brandon Masters, the goal is the same as it’s always been — place top five. “We believe we have our kids ready to go, and I think we’re gonna go get some nice marks on the men’s side,” Masters said. “I think our women are really exciting right now. I think we’re in a really good place, and I feel like we’re sitting nice to pull off that top five.” Masters said he feels every team from year

to year is different, but he especially feels that, though this year’s women’s team is young, it’s more motivated than ever. “They’re excited about coming to the meet,” Masters said. “It seems like every week they do something that isn’t expected, and that’s an exciting place to be as a coaching staff. You don’t know the limits of their potential yet, because they just keep getting better and better.” Sophomore Tiffany Hughey is one of the women who continues to improve, as she earned an NCAA provisional time, clocking this year’s 15th fastest 400-meter dash in the nation at the Last Chance Meet Feb. 18 in Hughes Fieldhouse. Hughey beat her previous best by almost a full second with a time of 55 seconds and 82 milliseconds.

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